

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 15, 2006, Applicants provide the following response. In the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 16 are rejected. Claims 11-15 and 17 are indicated as allowable. With this response, claims 1 and 8 have been amended. All other claims remain unchanged.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsurayama (JP ABST 10-242621) in view of Nakamura et al. (US 6739040). With this response, the Applicants respectfully traverse.

With this response, minor amendments to claims 1 and 8 are provided to help clarify the invention. As amended, each independent claims recites, in part, a printed circuit board having circuit patterns formed thereon, and laminating or superimposing a semi-cured resin sheet onto the printed circuit pattern, and further, polishing the cured resin to expose the circuit pattern. These steps are in stark contrast to the process set forth in either of the cited references above. Katsurayama discloses that the substrate, which the printed circuit pattern is formed on, is the resin layer. Katsurayama fails to disclose that the resin layer be separate from the printed circuit board as set forth in claims 1 and 8. Thus, Katsurayama fails to disclose each and every limitation presented in both independent claims 1 and 8. Further, Nakamura discloses a striping step, but fails to disclose a polishing step as recited in claims 1 and 8. MPEP 2143 requires that a prima facie case for obviousness must show that the cited references teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Because the references, alone or in combination, fails to disclose each and every limitation, claims 1 and 8 are non-obvious in view of the references.

MPEP 2143 further requires, for a prima facie case of obviousness, that there is a sufficient suggestion or motivation to combine the cited references. In the Office Action, the motivation that is set forth by the Office Action is found in Nakamura column 4, lines 53-55. That section of Nakamura states that a pressurization step is implemented. But, that section does not provide a suggestion or motivation to combine that step into a step of Katsurayama's process. In other words, the cited passage of Nakamura only sets forth that the Nakamura process includes a pressurization step, rather than provide a suggestion or motivation to combine it into

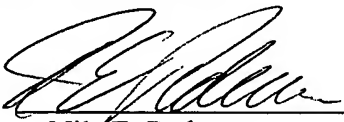
the Katsurayama process. Because the motivation or suggestion to combine it is lacking, it is respectfully requested that the claimed invention is not obvious in view of the cited references. In view of the foregoing arguments, it is respectfully requested that the claim rejections be withdrawn and the claims be indicated as allowable. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-10 and 16, depend from independent claims 1 and 8, and as set forth above, define further features and structure of the device. Accordingly, these claims are patentable for the reasons noted above with respect to claims 1 and 8 as well for the additional features recited therein. Therefore, notice to the effect that dependent claims 1-7, 9-10 and 16 are in a condition for allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Keiichi MURAKAMI

By: 

Nils E. Pedersen
Registration No. 33,145
Attorney for Applicant

NEP/krp
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
September 15, 2006